

## Solid Gold Rings

Christmas Gifts.

**SIGNET RINGS.**  
Much worn now by ladies and gentlemen. We have them in great variety of design, some jeweled, at \$2.50 to \$58.00.

**Floral Birth Month Rings.**  
Carved with the flower of your birth month—holly for December, \$5.00 each. The price includes the setting of your initial or monogram, or the same rings with your diamond set in either side of signet ring, \$10.00—engraving free.

**Turquoise for December.**  
If your birthday is in December, you should wear a Turquoise Ring as a symbol of prosperity. These rings are at all prices, from \$5.00 to \$40.00.

**Emblem and Society Rings.**  
We have a large assortment of emblem and society rings for all well-known organizations. The prices range from \$5.00 upward.

**Mermod & Jaccard's,**  
Broadway and Locust.

## Five Exquisite Pictures

(IN COLOR)

Good for framing—decorative and altogether charming—

WITH

## Next Sunday's Republic Magazine

Ask your dealer to save a copy for you.

## BETROTHAL CAUSES DELIGHT.

Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwering to Wed.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL.**  
By cable to the NEW YORK HERALD and THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLIC. Dec. 20.—(Copyright, 1903.)—The good news from Germany of the betrothal of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwering and the Princess Alexandra of Cumberland has caused hearty rejoicing at the Villa Wenden, the winter home of the former's mother, the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

There is no less rejoicing at the residence of the Grand Duke Michael Nikolaevich, the maternal grandfather of the young Grand Duke, who is joyous at the happy event.

All day there has been a lively exchange of telegrams between the many relatives of the betrothed here and those in Germany and elsewhere.

**Friedrich IV.**, the Grand Duke, is well known in America through his frequent visits to his mother. He is an unusually tall and handsome young man, of fair hair and complexion, very like his late father, whose death he has been mourning for some time. He is fond of all sorts of sports, is a capital skier, and a most skillful automobilist along the roads.

## SAILOR'S SUDDEN FORTUNE.

One Day in Uncle Sam's Navy, the Next Possessor of \$250,000.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL.**  
Vallejo, Cal., Dec. 20.—To have been a sailor one day in Uncle Sam's navy at a monthly pay of \$13, and to find himself the next day worth \$250,000, is the experience of John Snyder, who was honorably discharged from the navy service yesterday and left for Portland, Ore., last night.

Snyder's fortune comes from his father, who left money, bonds and real estate in Portland, Seattle, New York and San Francisco. Snyder has been in the navy service for four years, and during a considerable portion of that time he served as a baker. He arrived at Mare Island several months ago on the gunboat Princeton, from service in the Philippines, and since has been quartered on the receiving ship Independence.

## SUCCEUMS TO HEART DISEASE.

E. W. Meddaugh Dies at Grosse Pointe Farms.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL.**  
Detroit, Mich., Dec. 20.—E. W. Meddaugh, for many years general counsel of the Grand Trunk Railroad, died at his residence at Grosse Pointe Farms, today, after an illness of a year.

## PLACES FITNESS ABOVE PRIORITY.

Secretary Root Says Seniority of Rank Must Be Subordinated in Selecting Generals.

## MAKES DEFENSE OF WOOD.

Praises His Qualifications as a General and Commends His Military Record—Letter Made Public.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The letter of Secretary Root to Senator Proctor, chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, dated November 18 last, giving a resume of the military record of General Leonard Wood and stating the chief considerations which led to his nomination as a Major General, was made public today.

After quoting from remarks commending the record of General Wood, made by Generals Miles, Lawton, Graham and Forsythe, the letter recites that "upon these and similar evidences of fitness, President McKinley appointed Captain Wood Colonel of the First Volunteer Cavalry in May, 1898."

The Secretary also quoted from the commendations of Generals Young, Wheeler, Sumner and Shafter on General Wood's conduct in the Santiago campaign, and says General Wood's appointment as commander of the Santiago Province appears to be based upon a statement made by General Shafter in a dispatch to the department in which he said he "thought General Wood by far the best man to leave in command of Santiago."

**WOOD'S CAREER REVIEWED.**  
The Secretary reviews General Wood's subsequent military career, saying in this connection:

"The high estimate put by the Secretary of War upon General Wood's services as military Governor is shown in the published orders of the War Department," referring to the general orders of March 25, 1903, and July 4, 1902, which have heretofore been published. The Secretary adds that the opinions expressed in these orders also were the opinions of both Presidents, under whom the service was rendered, saying:

"Upon a review of General Wood's entire military record, I think it fair to say that no officer of the American Army better deserves the position of Major General than the one who has held more important commands, rendered more distinguished service or demonstrated a higher degree of fitness and the qualities which fit a man to render valuable services to the country as a Major General."

**SURVIVAL OF FITTEST.**  
In speaking of the principles, which, he says, sound policy requires the President to follow in making appointments, the Secretary says:

"The law which recognizes seniority alone as the title to promotions up to the grade of Colonel abandons that rule when it deals with general officers, and imposes on the President the duty of selecting the man for promotion, without expressing any limitation upon the class from which he is to make the selection."

The Secretary adds that when such a selection is to be made two different considerations always present themselves to the appointing mind—one, a desire to reward long and meritorious service; the other, to secure the best possible man. He says: "Considerations do not always conflict, pointing to the same man. Continuing, he says:

"Appropriate reward of honor frequently comes to our officers when their careers are about to close, when they have passed the period of initiative, of ambition and strenuous exertion, and have come to the period of comparative repose. An army officer of whose general officers are selected for the purpose of conferring rewards, and thus having at his head a constantly shifting body of general officers, none of whom has more than a very few years to serve, and all, or nearly all, are just closing their careers and resting upon their laurels, cannot possibly reach the highest standard of efficiency."

"To have a live army, which keeps abreast of the times, in a constant state of preparation and ready to meet emergencies with the greatest efficiency and force, we must have a reasonable proportion of its general officers selected from the prime of life, with energy, initiative, and whose long and meritorious service is enough to maintain continuity of policy and sustained effort in working out ideas which require time and thought."

"Previous rank," continues the Secretary, "is of little consequence provided the service shall have been enough to furnish the requisite experience and make the demonstration of capacity certain."

The Secretary says he thinks both considerations are in the case of General Wood, and concludes by saying that General Wood's record and the views of public opinion, which McKinley to appoint him a Brigadier General, and the present nomination is in the regular order of seniority.

## COME EARLY.

No Crowds Before 10:30 A. M.

Solid Gold for gifts—See to \$60.

**MERMOD & JACCARD'S,**  
Broadway and Locust.

## WILLIAMSON'S WIFE FAINTS.

Swoons at Hospital When Told of His Suicidal Attempt.

When Mrs. Harry Williamson of No. 377 Iowa avenue called at the City Hospital yesterday morning to accompany her husband home, as she thought, and was told he had made another attempt to take his life, she fainted in the corridor of the hospital.

## RESIDENTS OF SOUTHWESTERN SECTION OF THE CITY COMPLAIN OF STREETS MADE IMPASSABLE BY MUD.



Intersection of Thurman boulevard and Shenandoah avenue where sewer construction makes the thoroughfare impassable.

Residents and property-holders in a pretty strip of the city, lying between Grand, Tower Grove, Flad and Shenandoah avenues, are kicking vigorously on the condition of streets, alleys and crossings in that vicinity.

Cleveland avenue property-holders, at the intersection of Lawrence avenue and Thurman boulevard, are in an exceedingly bad fix, due to the recent rains and thaws, and are compelled to walk a half mile west or east to escape sinking over shoes in yellow, soupy clay, if they desire to cross the street.

Thurman boulevard and Lawrence avenue are absolutely impassable for either vehicle or pedestrian on account of recent excavations made for sewers. Clay was thrown over the crossings to the depth of several feet and much of it left there after the contractors had completed their work.

R. W. Boisselier of No. 4117 Cleveland

avenue, who has been leading the clamor for enough improvement to get to street cars, at least, declares that he has repeatedly applied to the Street and Sewer Commissioners' offices without avail.

"It's a shame," he said yesterday, "that the city does not do something to remedy the conditions in this, one of the prettiest of southwestern residence districts of the city. These sewers were started last spring and have been completed, but the contractors have left the crossings in a condition that would try the patience of any one. The streets—that is, Thurman boulevard and Lawrence avenue—are a veritable sea of mud and water, but we would not care if the city would at least improve our crossings until such time as they are ready to make our cross streets."

"Before the excavations were made last spring we had fair crossings on all streets in our vicinity north and south, but now it is a case of wade in and get out the

best you can. No one crossing the alley front street conditions are: Samuel J. Turner of 4117 Cleveland avenue, H. E. Keenan of No. 4123 Cleveland avenue, A. G. Abbott of No. 4109 Flad avenue, H. T. Zeller and O. C. Eckert. The latter two conduct business places at the corner of Thurman boulevard and Shenandoah avenue, and it is with extreme difficulty that customers are enabled to reach their stores."

Public-spirited citizens, from time to time, have spread ashes and pieces of plank along extremely bad crossings in the neighborhood, but they submerge in a day or two in the soft clay.

Mr. Boisselier states that Street Commissioner Varreimann declares he can do nothing to help conditions in the vicinity, as the drainage is under the supervision, at present, of the Sewer Commissioner.

## PANAMA TREATY IN DANGER: ADMINISTRATION ALARMED.

Continued From Page One.

of Florida, Bacon and Clark of Georgia, McCreaty of Kentucky, Foster and McEnery of Louisiana, Simmons and Overman of North Carolina and Gibson of Montana.

Tallaferro and Mallory are outspoken for the treaty.

This would leave twenty Senators to be accounted for. Of these, eighteen are opposed to the treaty, as follows: Morgan and Pettus of Alabama, Patterson and Teller of Colorado, Dubois of Idaho, Blackburn of Kentucky, Gorman of Maryland, McLaren and Money of Mississippi, Newlands of Nevada, Tillman and Latta of South Carolina, Carmack and Hale of Tennessee, Bailey and Culberson of Texas and Daniel and Martin of Virginia.

Cockrell of Missouri and Clark of Montana are doubtful. Senator Clark has been very ill since the treaty was negotiated, and his views are not known. Senator Cockrell's position is doubtful, because he strongly objects to being bound by any caucus.

**CAUCUS AGREEMENT RESULT OF MANY CONFERENCES.**  
This was the situation when the Democrats began their series of conferences looking for some united action during this session of Congress. Various suggestions were made. Conference after conference broke up without a decision being reached. Some Democrats did not want to be bound by one thing, and some fought shy of another. Finally, Senator Blackburn of Kentucky offered a resolution providing that any line of policy which was decided upon by a two-thirds vote of a caucus should be binding upon all the Democrats participating in the caucus. In order, however, to insure the passage of the resolution, this clause was added:

"Except when previous pledges have been made by Senators to their constituents, or instructions received from their State legislatures, or when a question of constitutional construction is involved, the caucus shall have no effect."

This leaves the door wide open for all the thirteen Panama Democratic Senators to march through should they, after mature deliberation, decide that they ought to vote for the treaty. It will be possible for these thirteen Senators, if they so desire, to prevent the caucus from being held.

There is no member of the Morning Star Junior Civic League more than 13 years of age. Christine Johnston of No. 3126B Caroline street, the president of the league, is 11 years old. Josie Clements of No. 1225 South Compton avenue, the vice president of the league, is 11 also. Yet, in the midst of the league's work to attract such children, the officers mentioned, Edna Smith of No. 279 Rutgers street, in second vice president; Phoebe Meyer of No. 318 Caroline street, secretary, and Mary Mahoney of No. 900 Ewing avenue, sergeant-at-law.

"We have already petitioned Charles W. Francis, the Assistant Health Commissioner, to have the garbage removed from in front of two places on Caroline street, which the garbage collector had refused to touch, although the garbage has been placed in proper receptacles, in plain view, for a long time," little Miss Johnston remarked.

Josie Clements manifested great interest in the league's work. "Why is it," she asked, "when we are expecting so many people to come and see next year, that we cannot have the city officials do something to help us make the city prettier?"

attacking the policy of the Government, with only the reply of Senator Foraker in rebuttal.

## PANAMA FLAG IS FORMALLY BLESSED

General Obarrio Makes Speech to Soldiers, Who Swear Fidelity to New Republic.

Panama, Dec. 20.—News was brought to-night by the steamer Martinique from Savanilla that two battalions of Colombian troops have left Savanilla for Quidodo.

A passenger on the Martinique declares that everything is quiet at Savanilla, and that there is a growing feeling on the part of the people of the Department of Bolivar to accept the situation on the Isthmus.

It is reported that President Marroquin recently sent this cablegram to General Reyes at Washington:

## LITTLE CHOUTEAU SCHOOL GIRLS AID IN CLEANING ST. LOUIS.



CHRISTINE JOHNSTON, Of No. 3126B Caroline street, 11 years old, president of Morning Star Junior Civic League.

about the need for beautifying St. Louis. We wanted to try to help. That is the motto of the league. We organized last spring and have been working ever since. During the summer, but it was very hard. People used to put their garbage cans out on the sidewalk for us, but the garbage collector would go past and never touch them."

"Once when we stood by one of the cans and asked the garbage man to take it away, he jumped out of the wagon with a whip and threatened to strike the woman who wanted it removed. He did not dare to do so, however, so we kept on working. Two weeks ago we reorganized for the winter's work. We did not want to work in the cold, but we had to. We have been working hard ever since."

None of these children are of wealthy parentage. They live comfortably and happily in modest homes, and they are standing up for efficient city government and braving all the real terrors of a corporation in order to have the garbage removed from their neighbors' yards; that dead animals and filth may be removed from the city's streets; that police officers shall enforce the sanitary ordinances; that unattractive back yards may be transformed into gardens of health and beauty.

Christine Johnston, president, in discussing the work of the league, said: "You must remember we are only little girls, members of the Chouteau School. Mrs. Jessie E. Martin, our teacher, taught

to them, after which the soldiers, policemen and firemen swore fidelity to the flag and to the Republic."

Three hundred and eighty marines are now at Empire Station, on the Panama Railroad, under the command of Major John A. Lejune.

## SUPPORTS ADMINISTRATION.

Atlanta Constitution Favors Ratification of Treaty.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL.**  
Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 20.—Clark Howell, editor of the Republic, comes out editorially today in endorsement of the Panama Canal policy of President Roosevelt and the administration, and criticizes the attitude of Senator Daniel in opposing the treaty.

The editorial says the Republic of Panama was not born too quickly, considering the circumstances, nor did the American Government recognize it any too soon. In conclusion, it says:

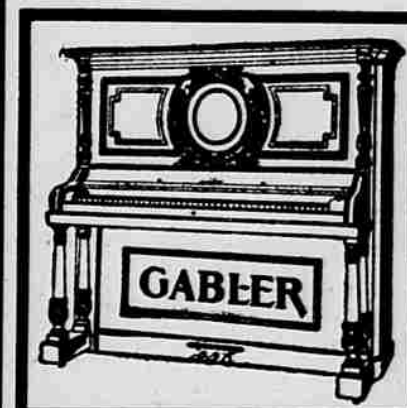
"Suppose we withdraw our recognition and reject the treaty? What will be our position, then, as viewed by the other Governments of Europe and America that have also recognized the new Republic of Panama? Are we to do this ridiculous thing, abandon our treaty rights in Panama, give up the canal there, withdraw our guardianship of rail transit now going on, and go hunting for terms with people who would be fools if they did not profit themselves tremendously by our predicament?"

"Senator Hoar can afford to fight the canal so long as Boston is building enormous terminal facilities to handle the ocean-bound freights of the transcontinental railroads. Senator Hale of Maine can afford to join him, since Portland is becoming the entrepot, and export depot of the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk systems. Senator Teller and other Senators may be indifferent, because the

## GABLER PIANOS

HERE was no use advertising a piano when the factory could not keep up half way supplied. That is the reason the "Gabler" has taken a back seat in our advertising space for the last six months.

Months ago we began to urge upon Messrs. Gabler & Bro. our claim to recognition in the Holiday distribution, with result that they let us have twenty-five instruments, and have promised some more—soon.



This city is the stronghold of the "Gabler", and we made it so. Year after year we kept selling them, until it looked like surely there must be a halt some time. But no, almost every time we sold one, "some friend or relative of the buyer" came in and wanted one of the same kind. Last spring there were over 6,500 "Gablars" in use in this city.

Piano dealers have worn out all the descriptive words that suit the "Gabler", but if your hearing and eye-sight are good, we will let the "Gabler" present its own strong points when you come to see us. You will find the price satisfactory. That is one of the things that made the "Gabler" by long odds the most popular high-grade piano in this country: as perfect a piano as can be made, and a reasonable price. Some dealers are offering more than this, which is their lookout.

Do not delay. We MAY get another lot of "Gablars" in a few days, but the chances are we will not. At any rate, if you wish one, there is nothing to be gained by waiting. We will make the terms of payment reasonable.

## BOLLMAN BROS. PIANO COMPANY

1120-1122 OLIVE STREET

Store open until 9 P. M. during the Holidays.

## SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES

Suitable for a Xmas Present.

Byes Examined and Glasses Changed Free of Charge after the Holidays.

SOLID GOLD SPECTACLES from \$5 up.

EGGERT & FISHER, The Leading Optician, 317 N. 7th Street, Between Olive and Locust, Mercantile Club Building.

## LOW RATES

—VIA—

**BIG FOUR**

DEC. 24, 25, 31, JAN. 1, RETURN JANUARY 4

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$1.70

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

St. Paul, Minn. .... \$2.00

St. Louis, Mo. .... \$2.00

## DENY THAT THEY WILL RAISE PRICES.

Chicago Hotelkeepers Alarmed Over Report of Driving Off Republican Convention.

**REPUBLIC SPECIAL.**  
Chicago, Ill., Dec. 20.—A report that Chicago hotelkeepers were planning to demand extortionate rates during the Republican National Convention, and that there is no disposition on the part of the hotel men of Chicago to advance the regular rates, therefore, has caused a scare among hotel men last night and to-day.

They made haste to deny that any extortion was to be practiced and telegrams were sent to members of the National Republican Committee assuring them that the regular rates would be maintained. Only two hotels contemplate increasing the rates. All the others are to keep the rates normal.

Willis Howe, manager of the Palmer House, spokesman for the Hotelkeepers' Association, said:

"We shall not drive away the convention by any increase of rates. Our rates run from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per day and these are the rates which will prevail during the Republican Convention. We shall increase our capacity by placing two or more persons in a room where agreeable, but that is done during every event which draws large crowds."

A cry was raised when the convention was held in St. Louis," said Manager Albert S. Gage of the Wellington. "There is no disposition on the part of the hotel men of Chicago to advance the regular rates. It is simply a question of utilizing our capacity and getting paid for it in accordance with the added expense we will have."

Manager George B. Weaver of the Stratford declared that rates would not be raised in his hotel during the convention. Manager Frank of the Sherman House denied any plan to increase rates.

**Accepts Call to Auxvasse.**  
Mexico, Mo., Dec. 20.—The Reverend J. H. Corwin, pastor of the Christian Church at Auxvasse, twelve miles south of this city.

## THE WEATHER.

Official Forecast Announced for To-Day and To-Morrow.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Forecast: Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Arkansas—Generally fair Monday and Tuesday.

Indiana and Illinois—Monday, fair; warmer in north and central portions. Tuesday, fair; fresh, southwest to northwest winds. Eastern Texas—Fair Monday and Tuesday; fresh south winds on the coast.

Missouri—Fair Monday and Tuesday; breezy—Monday, fair; warmer in east portion. Tuesday, fair.

Western Texas—Fair Monday and Tuesday.

**CHIMNEY-FROM-FIRE.**  
Virginia, Ill., Dec. 20.—Mr. August Gensinger of Beardsville and Miss Anna Ellen Froelich of Canton, Ill., were married here to-day.

**GARIBOLDI SCHENCK.**  
Marco, Ill., Dec. 20.—Gariboldi Schenck, who built the first house in Marco, died here to-day, aged 82 years.

**CASTORIA** for infants and children. Bears the Signature of *Dr. H. H. Hatcher*

Always remember the full name **Exquisite Bromo Quinine** on every bottle. *E. W. Meddaugh* on every box, 25c